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Skaters at the Forks during the winter solstice on Wednesday.
LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

COUNTDOWN

Forks land trail, rink now open, but river won't be ready before Dec. 31

metroNEWS

Your Uber holiday wish might come true

TRANSPORTATION

Province releases report backing ridesharing services



Stephanie Taylor
Metro | Winnipeg

Winnipeg locals hoping to one day hail a ride using Uber have reason to rejoice.

On Wednesday, the province released a new report that recommends ridesharing services, like Uber or Lyft, be allowed to operate in the local taxicab market.

The 164-page document, prepared by MNP LLP and commissioned by the Manitoba Taxicab Board under the previous New Democrat government, contains 40 recommendations in total.

These suggestions were made in response to a widespread review of the industry, in which more than 700 taxicab owners and drivers were consulted, as well as 9,715 members of the public and a number of local organizations, the report says.

"Consultation findings indicate the public feels more supply is needed,

particularly during winter months, peak periods of the day/evening and after special events."

"At one taxicab for every 1,252 people in the busy winter period, Winnipeg has significantly fewer taxicabs than all other compared cities, which average one taxicab for every 860 people," it reads.

To fix that, the review says the board should add 150 new taxi licences to the market.

A total of 4.1 million consumers took taxi trips in 2015, according to the report.

The report says 64 per cent of respondents indicated they want to see ridesharing services in the city, with "Allowing

Uber" being the top priority among on-line survey participants.

"The main reasons for support are that it would bring more choice and options to the market, increase competition, increase convenience, reduce wait times and reduce prices," it reads.

However, industry stakeholders are less than thrilled.

They "expressed concern that enabling private vehicles for hire would decrease demand for taxicab services and people would lose their livelihoods."

When contacted by Metro on Wednesday, taxicab board chair Randy Williams said he needed more time to consider the recommendations in the report before commenting.

Uber allows users to prearrange a ride through apps. For example, those who use Uber will request a ride and be connected to a driver, who operates a private vehicle, but holds a commercial licence.

Users are also able to see information about who their driver is and ratings from previous passengers.

After the ride, a user pays via credit card that is already set up through the app.

Both Unicity Taxi and Duffy's Taxi have launched apps that allow passengers to book cabs.

DETAILS

Other key recommendations from the report:

- Allow both standard and accessible taxis to drive in diamond lanes.
- Mandate drivers to post their photo and ID in cabs.
- Increase the number of supervised taxi stands in downtown Winnipeg.
- Review whether taxis should be regulated by the province or at a municipal level.

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Course sees 'growing pains'

EDUCATION

Indigenous profs needed for required class: Official



Jessica
Botelho-Urbanski
For Metro|Winnipeg

Though the road to reconciliation is paved with good intentions, the University of Winnipeg is still attempting to iron out some speed bumps.

The school is navigating a need for more indigenous professors to teach the influx of students mandated to take the new indigenous course requirement to graduate. A university spokesperson told Metro there is "nothing firm" as far as a timeline for the university to make new hires.

The indigenous course requirement was introduced this fall and still has room for improvement, said University of Winnipeg Students' Association president Kevin Settee.

"There are going to be growing pains and we're going to have to figure it out, but nothing is perfect when you first start out," Settee said. "There will be students that come with a lot of knowledge (of indigenous history) and they take a course and it's easy peasy. And then there will be some students that come and have absolutely no knowledge or understanding, and it's very difficult."

Settee said he hasn't heard any



Students' Association president Kevin Settee says he hasn't heard complaints from students about the indigenous course requirement. LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

major complaints from students about the new mandatory course. He's concerned, however, about the need to use indigenous ways of teaching.

"Indigenous pedagogy isn't

one person standing in front of the class, lecturing for three hours. It's a reciprocal learning environment where students and teachers are learning together," he said.

Chris Minaker, senior executive officer and adviser to the U of W president, said the school doesn't keep track of the ratio of non-indigenous and indigenous professors teaching the indigen-

BY THE NUMBERS

1-1.1K

Students signed up for indigenous studies classes during fall term.

17

The number of courses available, with multiple sections in each.

16

Instructors that taught the various courses. The U of W couldn't say how many of the instructors teaching the indigenous course requirement classes are indigenous themselves.

40

Classes that have been approved for the indigenous course requirement credit so far, with the list expected to grow. — University of Winnipeg marketing and communications.

lot of pressure on them to find more indigenous faculty."

Jacqueline Romanow, chair of the U of W's indigenous studies department, said she's asked for more indigenous profs — at least one or two in the short term to help with the new students.

When she started teaching at the school 10 years ago, Romanow said there was one intro to indigenous studies class per year with about 55 students. In the last term, there were five such courses with 70 to 90 students each.

"I certainly have already made the argument to the dean, and will be making it again, for more faculty for us because I believe this is going to increase demand for indigenous courses," she said of the mandatory classes.

Romanow said she also had to adjust her teaching style this year to accommodate new students.

"To be honest, when I taught the course in the past, it would be to about an 80 per cent indigenous class. So the focus is a little bit different," she said. "When you have a majority non-indigenous class, like they are now, obviously that self-learning isn't there. So I had to make sure that non-indigenous students weren't alienated by the course or the approach."

The U of W and Lakehead University are the first universities in Canada to implement a mandatory indigenous studies course for undergraduate students.

About 12 per cent of first-year U of W students self-identify as indigenous, "one of the strongest indigenous participation rates among Canadian universities," according to the school's website.

ous course requirement.

Settee said he thinks it's time for them to start counting.

"We should be keeping track of those numbers," he said. "I just have a feeling that it will put a

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Surgery can't stop pup's tail

ANIMAL RESCUE

Happy dog had leg amputated after getting caught in trap

A puppy that had a leg amputated after being caught in a trap is still managing to wag its tail at the Winnipeg Humane Society.

The society says a trapper found the German Shepherd mix last month in northern

Manitoba.

The dog named "Fleece" somehow managed to get out of the trap, but its leg was badly mangled.

Fleece was flown to Winnipeg on Nov. 25 and had surgery the next day.

Kyle Jahns, a spokesman for the society, said the three-legged puppy is a happy dog despite its brutal ordeal.

Fleece is living with a foster family and will be available for adoption starting in January.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fleece, who had a leg amputated after being caught in a trap is still managing to wag its tail at the Winnipeg Humane Society.

WINNIPEG HUMANE SOCIETY/
HO/THE CANADIAN PRESS



CRIME

Police investigating multiple homicides



Lucy Scholey
Metro | Winnipeg

Two murders in two days.

Police are investigating another homicide, after a man died of stab wounds Wednesday.

Officers found the man in the 400 block of Kennedy Street at 11 p.m. the previous night. He was hospitalized with serious injuries.

The homicide unit is still investigating.

However, police have arrested a suspect in a separate homicide case, after a man was found dead in a West Kildonan home on Tuesday morning.

Officers found Edward Lee Dyck, 55, at 4:35 a.m. at a home in the 200 block of Belmont Avenue with "multiple suspicious injuries," according to a police press release.

Dale Gregory Hilderman, 51, is now facing second-degree murder charges and has been remanded into custody.

IN BRIEF

Senior hit by truck dies

A woman who was rushed to hospital in critical condition Sunday afternoon after she was struck by a truck died Tuesday. Police have identified the woman as a 68-year-old. METRO

Two officers Tasered

Two Winnipeg police officers suffered minor injuries after a suspect grabbed a Taser from an officer and zapped them with the electronic weapon. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MMIW

Response mixed over movement to include indigenous males in inquiry



Keila DePape
For Metro | Winnipeg

A controversial movement to include men and boys in the national inquiry for missing and murdered indigenous women has yet to hit home in Winnipeg.

On Dec. 7, the Canadian Association for Equality (CAFE) met with federal government officials to make their case, arguing 70 per cent of murdered indigenous Canadians are men.

Damon Johnston, president of the Aboriginal Council of Win-

nipeg, believes bringing male victims into the conversation is "the only way reconciliation can move forward."

The council works with service agencies that help indigenous men deal with violence, abuse and addictions. But Johnston believes funding is not where it should be. Johnston says there were no resources available when he was abused as a child.

"There's an intergenerational

effect that affects everyone, not just women."

Leslie Spillet, founder of the non-profit indigenous organization Ka Ni Kanichihk, agrees intergenerational trauma isn't exclusive to women, but says other factors necessitate a separate inquiry.

The government says families of male victims are welcome to share their stories at the inquiry's upcoming testimonial hearings.

“There's a unique type of violence that indigenous women face. It's being devalued. Leslie Spillet

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River Trail could open in time for New Year's Eve

RECREATION

Hockey rink, land trail already open to the public



Keila DePape
For Metro | Winnipeg

The Forks river trail could be slicked and skate-ready as early as New Year's Eve. But don't make plans for the big night just yet.

There's no guarantee the Red River Mutual Trail will be ready over the holidays, according to the Forks' marketing and communications manager, Chelsea Thomson.

Crews were out testing the waters this week to see how the freezing process is coming along.

As of last Wednesday, skaters could take to the 'The Forks' rink under the canopy. The one-kilometre-long land trail and hockey rink in the festival park stage also opened on Friday.

It was a bit later than last year, but close to the average start date, according to Thomson.

Thomson says the ideal temperature for a good skate is -5 C, just cool enough to keep the ice from getting slushy.

There shouldn't be any worries there. After last year's unseasonably warm winter, Winnipeg is expected to feel more like its chilly self this year.

The daytime high is expected



Skaters take to the ice at the Forks during the winter solstice in Winnipeg on Wednesday. LYLE STAFFORD/FOR METRO

to dip into the negative double digits on Saturday.

When the river is good to go, The Forks will host the building week for "Warming Huts: An Art + Architecture Competition on Ice" in late January.

The annual competition brings in artists from around the world to build interactive structures for skaters to enjoy.

Along with the usual fun, Thomson says the Forks is looking to bring back winter canoe races and dragon boat races in the New Year.

STOCK UP

YouTube star forecasts 'massive blizzard'

Frankie MacDonald says Winnipeggers should be prepared.

The amateur weatherman and Internet star from Sydney, N.S., says that a

"massive blizzard" is headed our way on Boxing Day.

Many will recognize the voice of the 32-year-old

who's known for his YouTube weather forecasts, where he warns people in Cape Breton and beyond about impending storms, offering advice on how to stay safe and warm.

He also recently launched the third edition of his bobblehead figurine, just in time for the holiday season.

"People in Winnipeg, Manitoba be prepared. Have your winter boots ready, winter jackets, hats, gloves, scarves and ski pants ready," MacDonald says in a video posted Tuesday.

"Order your pizzas and Chinese food and buy cases of Pepsi and Coke."

STEPHANIE TAYLOR/METRO

MUSIC

Meanies reunite for show

Nigel Moore
For Metro | Winnipeg

It's going to be a Blue Christmas this year — courtesy of Winnipeg blues-rock veterans the Blue Meanies, that is.

The on-again, off-again band — which switched the "Blue" to "New" following a name conflict with an Australian band — found fame on local radio and MuchMusic during the alternative rock era of the mid to late '90s.

They'll reunite once more, this time as the Blue Meanies, for a festive Christmas show at the Pyramid Cabaret on Friday, Dec. 23.

"We're the Old Meanies now," joked frontman Damon Mitchell. "We really aren't taking ourselves too seriously, although we want to put on a good show."

"We have always enjoyed jamming and performing," he said. "A Christmas show provides a good opportunity to see old friends, many of whom have moved away and are home for a visit."

Mitchell said it's fun getting an old social scene back together, if only for one night. "And busy with kids, a show at Christmas is perfect for that," he said.

"I do a lot of sideman work and I forget that I can still belt one out," he said. "Just not too often, so that we don't feel we are an imitation of our younger selves. We do it once in awhile, and it remains special."

Tickets are \$21 at Ticketmaster, the Pyramid Cabaret, Into the Music and Music Trader.

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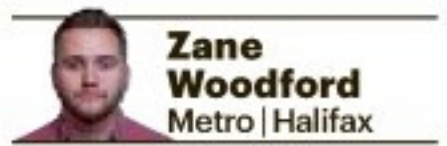
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He was 'just a punk'

HALIFAX

Senior recounts brutal attack that outraged a city



Zane Woodford
Metro | Halifax

An 85-year-old woman says she was "petrified" as she was repeatedly punched in the face and dragged from her home during a brutal assault in Halifax.

Police say they were called to Jeanette MacDonald's home Tuesday night.

MacDonald said she was home alone when there was a knock at the door. She called out to ask who was there, and when there was no answer, she went to the door.

"I opened the door, and the first thing he said was, 'Give me the money.' I said, 'What the hell are you talking about, I'm not giving you no money.' And he hit me with his fist in



Jeanette MacDonald was bruised after a home invasion at her basement apartment. JEFF HARPER/METRO

my face," MacDonald said in an interview Wednesday morning.

MacDonald said the man, who she'd never seen before, told her he had a gun and knife. She continued to refuse

his demands for money, and he dragged her outside.

"He said, 'Here's one for ya,' and he let me have it right in the face again," she said.

MacDonald's neighbours

"I said, 'What the hell are you talking about, I'm not giving you no money.'

Jeanette MacDonald

rushed to her side when they heard her cries for help.

"I was screaming, I couldn't stand the pain," MacDonald said.

She said the suspect ran away behind her home.

"Just a punk, that's all he was," MacDonald said.

Paramedics treated MacDonald's injuries at the scene. On Wednesday morning, she had two black eyes, a large bruise on her chest, and her hand was swollen.

"I'm not feeling too bad now, like I was at first, but I'm sore," she said.

Halifax police spokeswoman Const. Dianne Penfound said Wednesday afternoon that police had no further leads or information on the case.

Woman claims she was fired for lack of heels



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

A Dartmouth single mom is questioning whether her recent firing from a popular Halifax nightclub was over high heels, but her employer says they did everything "in line with labour standards."

Ally Robinson, 25, said she's worked in the service industry for years, including at Grafton Connor Group locations like Cheers, and as a bartender at The Dome since October. Last Friday, Robinson said a manager

sent her home for not wearing high heels during her shift.

The next day, Robinson said she was dismissed by the same woman who told her she was being let go due to not wearing heels, but then added, according to Robinson, "I don't need to give you a reason at all," because the 25-year-old was still under the probation period.

"It doesn't seem fair," Robinson says.

Robinson said she'd had issues with that particular manager harassing her since she began working at The Dome, and shaming in her in front of other employees.

AFGHANISTAN

Grandparents' first sight of kids in video

The parents of a Canadian man held hostage in Afghanistan say a recently released video of their son and his family marks the first time they've seen their two grandchildren, who were born in captivity.

Canadian Joshua Boyle and his American wife, Caitlan Coleman, were kidnapped in 2012 while travelling in a mountainous region of northern Afghanistan.

In a video uploaded to YouTube, Coleman — sitting next to her husband and two young children — urges governments on all sides to reach a deal to secure the family's freedom.

Boyle's parents, Patrick and Linda Boyle, said they watched the video on Monday, getting their first glimpse at their

young grandsons.

"It is an indescribable emotional sense one has watching a grandson making faces at the camera, while hearing our son's leg chains clanging up and down on the floor," the Boyles said.

The parents say their son told them in a letter that he and his wife have tried to protect their children by pretending their signs of captivity are part of a game being played with guards.

"It is simply heartbreaking to watch both boys so keenly observing their new surroundings in a makeshift film studio, while listening to their mother describe how they were made to watch her being defiled," the Boyles said. THE CANADIAN PRESS



The children of Joshua Boyle and Caitlan Coleman. TWITTER

MEXICO

Search for loved ones, answers after blast

Relatives of workers at a fireworks market flattened by a deadly chain-reaction explosion searched hospitals for loved ones Wednesday as attention focused on apparent lax security that allowed vendors to display their dangerous wares in the passageways between stalls.

Health Secretary Cesar Gomez Monge of Mexico State, where the San Pablito Market is located, said another victim died in a hospital, raising the fatal toll to 32. About 46 people remained hospitalized, five of them in such serious condition that they were fighting for their lives, he added. Ten of the injured were minors including one girl with burns over 90 per cent of her body.

Juana Antolina Hernandez, who has run a stand for 22 years



Officials walk through the rubble of the San Pablito fireworks market that exploded on the outskirts of Mexico City on Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

in San Pablito next to one operated by her parents, escaped the market in a mad dash when the explosions began Tuesday afternoon. The following day

she was one of the disconsolate residents waiting outside a local morgue.

"I can't find my father, and my mother is very badly

burned," said Hernandez, 49. "I am waiting here for them to tell me if my father is here, but up to this point, nothing."

San Pablito was especially well stocked for the holidays and bustling with hundreds of shoppers when the blast reduced the market to a stark expanse of ash, rubble and the scorched metal, casting a pall over the Christmas season. Dramatic video of the explosion showed a towering plume of smoke that was lit up by a staccato of bangs and flashes of light, the third such incident to ravage the market on the northern outskirts of Mexico's capital since 2005.

Officials in Mexico State, which borders Mexico City, said it was too early to identify a cause of the massive series of blasts. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



GLOBAL DIGEST
BERLIN
Officials had monitored truck attack suspect
German officials had deemed the Tunisian man being sought in a manhunt across Europe a threat long before a truck plowed into a Christmas market in Berlin — and even kept him under covert surveillance for six months this year before halt-

ing the operation.

Now the international manhunt for Anis Amri — considered the prime suspect in Monday's deadly rampage — is raising questions about how closely German authorities are monitoring the hundreds of known Islamic extremists in the country. The issue puts new pressure on Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is running for re-election next year. Critics are lambasting her for allowing hundreds of thou-

sands of asylum-seekers to enter the country, allegedly without proper security checks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TURKEY
Ambassador's killer linked to US-based cleric Gulen

Turkey's president on Wednesday implicated a U.S.-based Muslim cleric in the killing of Russia's envoy to Turkey, saying the policeman who carried out the attack

was a member of his "terror organization."

Turkey has accused Fethullah Gulen — a former ally who has turned into Erdogan's top foe — of trying to destabilize Turkey and says his movement is behind a failed military coup in July aimed at toppling the Turkish leader.

Gulen has denied any involvement in the coup. The government however, has labelled the movement "the FETO terror organization"

and has cracked down on Gulen's followers, arresting tens of thousands of people for their alleged link to the coup and purging more than 100,000 suspected supporters from government jobs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA
7-year-old Aleppo tweeter safe in Turkey

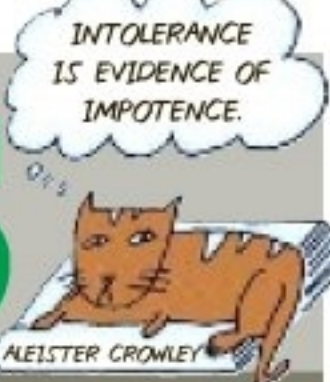
A 7-year-old Syrian girl who was evacuated on Monday from eastern Aleppo and whose mother ran a Twitter

account in her name met with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the Turkish capital, Ankara.

Bana Alabed's mother, Fatemah, began operating the account in September, tweeting on her daughter's behalf.

The account has garnered some 354,000 followers, and has included tweets to Michelle Obama and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, asking for help.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



CHANTAL HÉBERT ON TRUDEAU AS PARLIAMENTARIAN



The days when there was something special or newsworthy about a broadcaster serving up a prime minister to a nation have gone.

Once a staple of the holiday news season, the televised prime ministerial fireside chats are well on the way to joining the ghosts of Christmases past.

The CBC and Radio-Canada — among others — have opted out of the format, rightly concluding that the days when there was something special or, for that matter, newsworthy about deferentially serving up a prime minister to a festive nation had gone.

Interviews with the prime minister are a dime a dozen this December. On top of various year-end Parliament Hill interviews and a news conference, Trudeau has spent the past week on a year-end tour.

At the end of last week, he was in Montreal taking questions from Radio-Canada viewers. This week he spent time in Vancouver and Calgary.

There was a time when a contingent of Parliament Hill reporters would have tagged along. But trips outside the parliamentary precinct are so few now, as it is possible to

catch Trudeau live in action from one's computer at no cost to media organizations.

This year marked the 150th anniversary of the Parliamentary Press Gallery. For its members, it was a bitter-sweet occasion.

In tandem with the larger journalism universe the gallery's membership has been shrinking. That may be even truer of the institution's collective influence. The challenging economics of journalism tell only part of the story.

When I came to Parliament Hill in the late '80s, Le Devoir's Montreal-based justice reporter would hop on a bus and travel to Ottawa every time the Supreme Court released a major ruling.

Collecting it in person was the only way to get the text of a decision on the day it was rendered. For that reason, larger news organizations often based their justice reporter on Parliament Hill.

With the exception of the televised House debates, pretty much anything that happened around or on the

Hill was only accessible to journalists who were physically present on the premises. It was impossible to keep up with the narrative at a distance from the capital. The members of the gallery truly were the ears and eyes of Canadians on Parliament Hill for more than a century.

But today, the Globe and Mail's André Picard writes the most authoritative health-policy column on offer ... from Montreal.

In English as in French, the bulk of the immigration and foreign-policy commentary and analysis no longer emanates from Parliament Hill bureaus.

Every year, the budget lockup draws a gaggle of columnists and editorialists who normally toil in Montreal and Toronto. With access to federal finance documents at the tip of anyone's fingers, more fiscal policy coverage than ever is done outside the federal capital. And, of course, it is no longer necessary to have a desk a few blocks down from the Supreme Court to

obtain its rulings in real time.

The much-watched At Issue panel on CBC's The National has never had a permanent member whose exclusive workplace was Parliament Hill. (I have been splitting my time between the federal capital and Montreal for 20 years.) And yet parliamentary insiders regularly vote it as the most influential media panel.

Over the years, a lot of policy expertise and knowledge has been farmed out of the press gallery. As a consequence but also as the result of the practice of clickbaiting, the ratio of politics reporting versus public policy coverage coming out of the parliamentary press has steadily increased. The press gallery has become more diverse but polls suggest its output has tended to become less germane to the priorities of voters.

Parliament Hill remains the only place in the country where conflicting political currents come to clash. The dynamics are a must-watch for anyone who wants to understand how complex Canada is. That is not easily done via a computer screen.

It is impossible to imagine national political coverage without a parliamentary component.

But the daily reporting of Parliament Hill media insiders is probably no more likely to be restored to pride of place in the national conversation than the cosy fireside chats of the not-so-distant past.

Extending generosity to the ungenerous



Vicky Mochama
Metro

In the lead-up to the Plunderer-Elect of the United States taking the oath of office, it's become clear that this is the Age of the Thief.

Almost every cabinet appointment seems designed to enrich either the Trumps or their billionaire friends. Trump is draining the swamp but only so he can sell the water back to the thirsty swamp dwellers in gold-embossed bottles.

The next four years will consist of so many bold acts of theft. And not just in the United States.

In Toronto, police are searching for a white male who has robbed five downtown banks in the last month. However, knowing that the public loves a criminal they can cheer for — hello, all superheroes — the police have adorably named him the "lunchtime bandit." Such creativity from a force that has only managed to come up with Black Male Known To Police for so many other suspects.

(If I'm ever arrested, please tell the police my moniker is White Woman.)

The robber is brazen but only because he knows that no one suspects clean-cut white men of crimes. He can simply slide a note to a teller saying he's armed and be out of there in minutes.

According to Staff Insp. Mike Earl, this particular perp might not be all bad.

"Maybe he's never been in trouble before," he said. "Maybe he's an educated individual who's down and out and this is his only hope to get some kind of money."

That is exactly the kind of empathy that we'll need in the coming years. No one is a criminal anymore! Donald Trump isn't a fascist and a kleptocrat. He's just "an educated individual" trying to make a living.

For that reason, Doris Payne is my Pilferer of the Year. Doris is an international jewel thief who has spent over five decades stealing expensive jewelry. And getting away with it. My girl Doris, who is 86, was arrested just last week for stealing a necklace in suburban Atlanta.

While former stockbroker and convicted fraudster Jordan Belfort got an Oscar-worthy portrayal by Leonardo DiCaprio, Doris's 50 years of high-stakes thievery has so far only generated rumours of a Halle Berry-attached biopic.

(DiCaprio himself seems to like a scammer; he also played conman-turned-FBI consultant Frank Abagnale in 2002's Catch Me If You Can.)

Doris Payne's story is like the Thomas Crowne Affair meets the Best Exotic Mari-gold Hotel, but starring a fabulous and unrepentant black woman. What does a black woman have to steal to get Viola Davis to play her?

In this season of giving, let's not forget to celebrate the takers.



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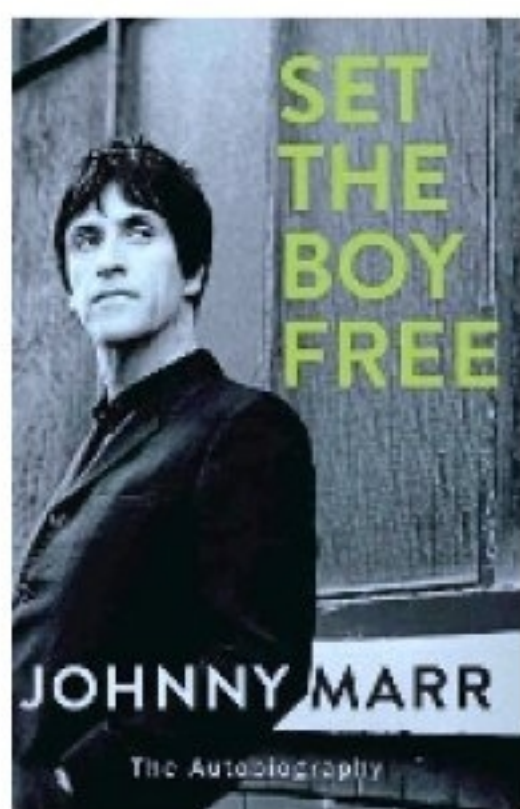
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Overlooked but wonderful reads

With thousands of books published each year, narrowing down a new holiday read or gift can be daunting. There are the award winners and the bestsellers, the book club picks and the big names. But if you're looking for something a little different, here are five titles worth seeking out: **SUE CARTER/FOR METRO**



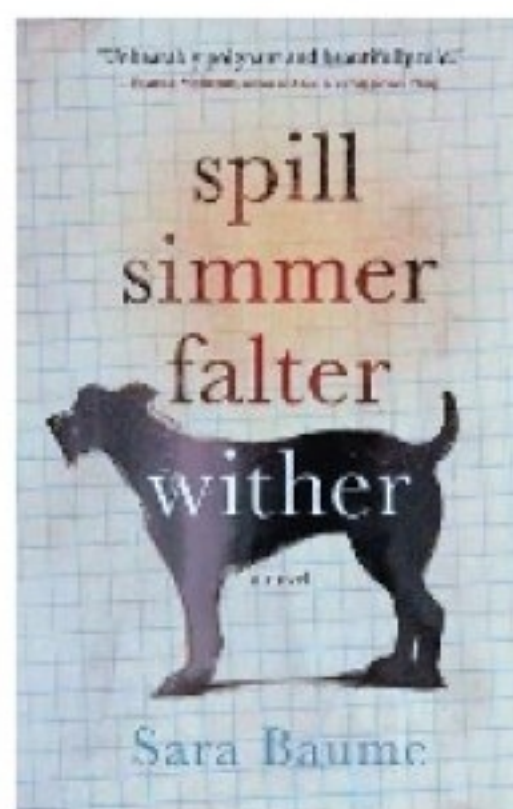
The fascinating Mr Smiths

In a year dominated by memoirs from Bruce Springsteen, Amy Schumer and Carrie Fisher, it was easy to miss Johnny Marr's **Set the Boy Free**. Marr and Morrissey, who co-formed the beloved 1980s band the Smiths, became as famous for their contentious break-up as their writing partnership. But Marr's entertaining autobiography keeps the mudslinging to a minimum, delivering a delightful history of a life dedicated to music.



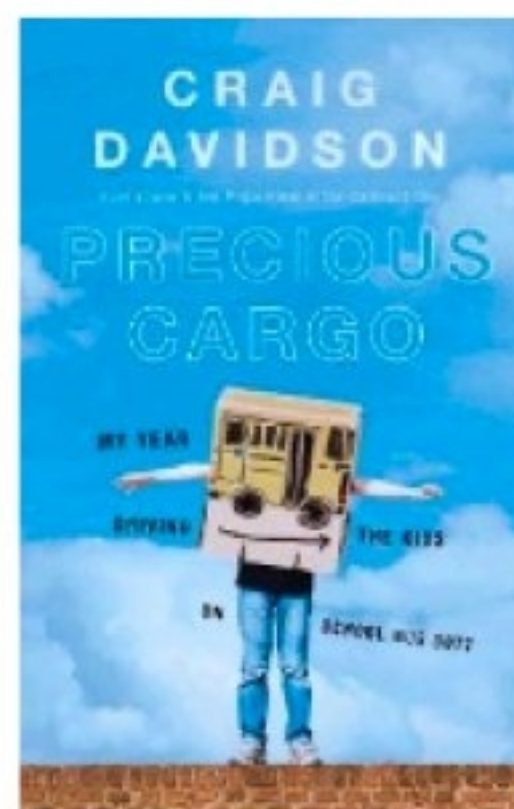
Thrill ride through Vancouver

Vancouver author Jen Sookfong Lee combines literary and crime fiction in her third novel **The Conjoined**, about a social worker who discovers the bodies of two girls — who turn out to be long-missing troubled foster children — in her recently deceased mother's freezers. Lee draws from Vancouver's social history, pop culture and an exploration of family dynamics for a woman-focused, refreshing take on the traditional thriller.



Man and dog in dark times

Before it was published in Canada this year, Irish writer Sara Baume received a long list of accolades in the U.K. for her debut novel **Spill Simmer Falter Wither**, set in a small village inspired by her own home. Baume breathes new life into an old trope about a man and his dog, with beautiful, lyrical language and a startling, dark conclusion. This is one of the most quietly devastating books of the year.



A funny, charming bus journey

Craig Davidson has earned a tough-guy reputation, both for his hard-hitting books (and the film adaptation of *Rust and Bone*) and his horror-writing pseudonym Nick Cutter. In his charming memoir **Precious Cargo: My Year of Driving the Kids on School Bus 3077**, the Calgary author recalls a tough period when he took a job driving a bus for special-needs students, proving that he is also sensitive and empathetic, with a sharp sense of humour.



Single women on a mission

Journalist Cheryl Lu-Lien Tan's first novel, **Sarong Party Girls**, explores the lives of Jazzy and her friends, all twenty-something Singapore women on a mission to snag rich *ang moh* (Western expat) husbands and to give birth to "Chanel babies." Told in 'Singlish' — a hybrid patois of Singaporean English — Tan, who did plenty of research to capture the scene, exposes a sordid but fascinating world of nightclubs and lounges ruled by racism and misogyny.



BOOK SALES

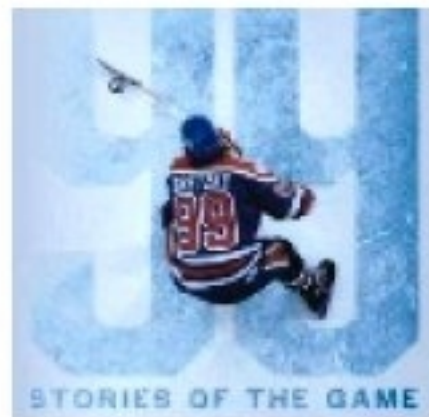
Gretzky skates away with another title as year's biggest seller

Wayne Gretzky has scored a literary win by penning the top-selling Canadian title of 2016.

BookNet Canada identified the top-selling books over a 48-week period, from Jan. 4 to Dec. 4.

99: *Stories of the Game* written by Gretzky and Kirstie McLellan Day was No. 1 on the non-fiction list, ahead of *Oh She Glows Every Day* by Canadian blogger Angela Liddon, and *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo.

In the fiction category, *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix



Sweeney took the top spot.

The *Couple Next Door* by Toronto author Shari Lapena was the highest-ranked Can-

adian title, in eighth place, one spot ahead of *The Illegal* by award-winning author Lawrence Hill.

Noah Genner, president and CEO of BookNet Canada, said year-to-date print book sales have been fairly flat compared to 2015.

The market bumped up for the first time in a few years in 2015 due in part to the colouring book craze, he noted.

"Last year, colouring books were massive ... and they had a huge year and sold really well — especially near Christmas

as Christmas gifts. It actually was enough to lift the whole market up," said Genner.

"This year, we're not seeing that same lift from the colouring book. They're still selling well, but not anywhere near where they were selling last year. Last year was a phenomenon.

"Generally, it's been a pretty good year in print book sales, actually, both at the indies and at the chains and online. It's been pretty consistent across all the channels."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

TOP SELLERS OF 2016

Fiction

1. *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney
2. *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins
3. *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
4. *The Girl on the Train* by Paula Hawkins (Movie Tie-in Edition)
5. *Me Before You* by Jojo Moyes

Non-fiction

1. 99 by Wayne Gretzky with Kirstie McLellan Day
2. *Oh She Glows Every Day* by Angela Liddon
3. *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up* by Marie Kondo
4. *Tropical World* by Millie Marotta
5. *Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur

BOOKNET CANADA

Bringing back an old-school Legend

INTERVIEW

Singer's role in La La Land sees him return to musical past

When he was a kid, multiple Grammy winner John Legend was in high school musicals, including *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. So perhaps it was in the cards for him to take on two roles in *La La Land*, a movie being credited with re-energizing the classic genre.

Written and directed by Damien Chazelle, *La La Land* opens on Christmas Day.

Legend is both an executive producer on the film and acts and sings onscreen as hit-seeking bandleader Keith. To prepare for the part, Legend worked with an acting coach and learned to play guitar. He also wrote the song he performs with co-star Ryan Gosling, *Start a Fire*.

Legend's Keith is a longtime friend of jazz musician Sebastian (Gosling), who seems far away from his dream of opening his own club. Keith's band is enjoying success with a far more commercial sound than the purity that Sebastian champions. When Keith offers him a job, it comes at a cost to Sebastian's relationship with struggling actress Mia (Emma Stone) and his vow to stay loyal to his music.

A co-writer on *Glory*, a Best Original Song Oscar winner from the film *Selma*, Legend sat down during the Toronto International Film Festival for a Canadian exclusive interview to talk about his work in *La La Land*.

What job came first: the executive producer or the acting?

It was all kind of bundled together in the same conversation. They wanted me to write a song for (*La La Land*) and possibly perform in it as an actor ... and come on as an executive producer to help with the music. But (Chazelle) held out the possibility that he might want me to play Keith and I looked at the role and said, 'Yeah, I could do this.' I understand Keith as a character, and it's something I think I (could) do. Damien took a leap of faith because he had never seen me act before. He had to just speculate that I might be good at it and I think he's OK with his decision now.

We don't know much about the friendship between Sebastian and Keith. Did you work out a backstory?

We talked about that with Damien and basically the idea was that these

You feel their story, you understand what it's like to have a dream and to want to pursue that.

John Legend

guys probably went to music school together and they both kind of have the same foundation as talented musicians who come up through the jazz school of thought, but one of them decides to cleave through that tradition more and the other one decides to kind of push himself beyond the boundaries of what traditional jazz would allow. Damien didn't want one to be perceived as inherently better than the other, but just different choices. This has been seen in films before, this idea of selling your soul for rock'n'roll. Right. And so (Chazelle) wanted that tension, but he also didn't want



John Legend with Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling in *La La Land*. DALE ROBINETTE/ENTERTAINMENT ONE

Keith to be a crappy musician that everyone thought, 'Well, that's terrible.' He wanted it to be a viable option; this is good in its own way. It's different from what Gosling's character's trying to do, but it's still a viable option.

Why do you want to be involved with movies?

I've always loved history and ... a lot of the films that we get involved with and the television shows we get involved with are kind of historically based. And I think film has a power to connect in a really powerful way and a beautiful way, and I love the interaction of film and music, and most

of it in things I work on have that interaction where we write songs for it. For instance, *Underground*, a television show that we produced (for WGN America), we were very involved in the music, so I feel like it's an extension of my music career and my career as a storyteller and as an artist.

Are movie musicals an old-fashioned concept?

Great stories never go out of style. Great characters never go out of style. Great filmmaking never goes out of style. And I think the power of this film is that you feel a real human connection to Sebastian and Mia, you feel their story, you understand what it's like to have a dream and

to want to pursue that. It's really great writing and great dancing, great performances. What's not to like? Even if this genre is supposedly on life support, I think Damien certainly provided enough jolt to it and reinvigorated it for 2016.

How does Ryan Gosling hold up as a musician?

Oh, he's so good! He really worked on being a great pianist for this and I was so impressed. And they (Stone and Gosling) sound great together, their singing and their dancing is just magical. It kind of took me by surprise to see how beautifully they were dancing together.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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'I waited until the last minute!'

GIFT IDEAS

A few tips so you can survive shopping at the 11th hour

Astrid Van Den Broek

You really don't want to resort to gift cards this coming Christmas, do you? I mean they're fine as a gift — people certainly love getting them — but nothing screams "I waited until the last minute!" than a gift card under the Christmas tree.

But if you're in a bind and actually did wait until the last minute, fear not. Help is here with some scoop on how to shop — with thought — at the 11th hour of Christmas Eve.

Go in with a plan
Hitting a mall with

hopes of knocking several people off your list? "Research ahead of time whether inventory is available — sites like Indigo, Sport Chek, Canadian Tire, and Best Buy will tell you what exactly is in stock, or you can always call ahead to confirm," said Brittany Rycroft, the blogger behind canadiangiftguide.com. Better yet, buy online and pick up in store.

Think online, part 1

Want to get an online gift that's truly personal? Try a gift subscription box service. "No one will fault you for showing up

empty-handed because they'll be getting gifts for months!" said Rycroft. Some of her favourites include Food Trip To (a multicultural food box subscription from Quebec) and FabFitFun (a box of trending full-size products for women). Subscription boxes work for a variety of people on your list — even your pets!

Think online, part 2

Really stuck? Try memberships such as Amazon Prime which, for a monthly cost, offers fast shipping — as fast as the next day. Or try apps such as Giftagram, says Rycroft. "This lets you

browse hundreds of gift ideas by interest or theme or price point," she said. "Then your recipient receives a text or email alerting them you're sending a gift, and they provide their preferred delivery address to receive the item within a few days. It lets you get those cool, curated gifts without worrying about whether that indie boutique is actually going to be open when you're in a mad rush."

And if you prefer bricks and mortar...

Rather shop in store right? "I have two go-

to retailers where you can buy gifts for virtually anyone on your list," said Rycroft. "Indigo has everything from electronics to books to fashion items and is as close to a one-stop shop as you'll find in Canada. I also really like Hudson's Bay because you can get beautiful, comfortable clothing and housewares for every member of the family."

Try experiences not things

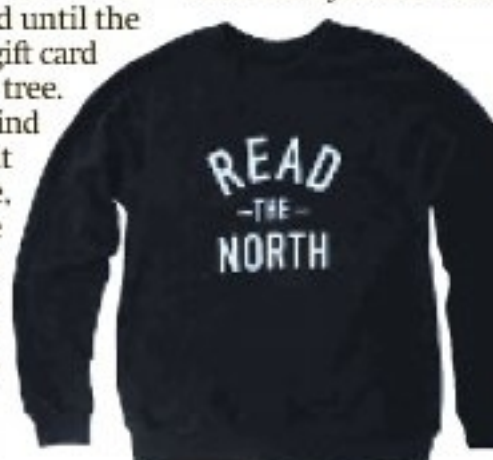
Not sure what last-minute gift is good for the person who has... everything? "I love the idea of buying experience, particularly if it's something more off-beat than a spa gift card," said Rycroft. "For example, Breakaway Experiences sells one-of-a-kind activity packages for things like flying lessons, dog sledding adventures and craft beer tours."

+ TIPS

DO...park somewhere you'd normally never park. "There can be better spots — or spots, period — in weird places like the upper levels of a parkade," suggested blogger Brittany Rycroft.

DO...dress properly. "This is such a simple one that people forget," said Rycroft. "You're going to be dealing with crowds and warm store temperatures so leave your heavy parka at home and opt for a lightweight jacket or vest."

DON'T...blow your budget. "If you're scrambling, you can feel pressure to splurge on whatever's available or easy to get," said Rycroft. "If that's the case, you're better off getting a gift card and printing out a web page of the item it's meant to go toward."



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YUM! YUM!

Some delicious additions for your holiday meal

Tina Anson Mine

Butter isn't a heart-healthy mono-unsaturated darling like olive oil, but it gets better press than old-school margarine. As a result, Canadians are eating about 2.8 kilos per person annually, according to the International Dairy Federation and Statistics Canada. And while the Heart & Stroke Foundation still recommends moderation, butter is a delicious holiday indulgence that can create a succulent, crispy-skinned turkey to grace your holiday table.

Compound butters, enhanced with spices, herbs or other flavourings, are an easy way to fancy-up this traditional holiday main. Below are some delicious additions to try; start with about 1/3 cup butter, softened, and add seasonings a little at a time, tasting as you go until the mixture is to your liking. Just remember that strong flavours will make their way into the drippings and any gravy you make from them.

Citrus zest: Finely grated orange or lemon zest adds a sunny flavour that's terrific with fresh or dried herbs. Lime zest can be a bit more aggressive and bitter, so use it sparingly or partner with other bold flavourings, such as hot peppers and chile powder.

Fresh or dried herbs: Finely chopped fresh parsley, thyme and sage are naturals with turkey. Rosemary, cilantro and oregano are stronger, so start small and

add more if you like a bossier butter. Dried herbs are easier to find in the colder months, but their flavours are more concentrated. Bay leaves are lovely with turkey — loosen the skin over the breast and rub butter underneath, then tuck in the leaves. Just remember to remove them before carving.

Spices: Ground black and white pepper are obvious choices, but it's fun to branch out with more exotic flavours. Ground cloves or coriander, smoked paprika, grated nutmeg and dry mustard are all tasty with mild turkey.

Hot peppers: Add excitement with hot pepper flakes, chopped dried chiles, or minced canned chipotles or fresh hot peppers, such as jalapeños or habaneros.

Garlic: Garlic is made to go with butter, especially when combined with herbs. Make extra so you can whip up a loaf of garlic bread later on.

Bacon: Bacon adds a divine smokiness. Cook chopped bacon until crisp and drain on a paper towel before mashing into butter.

Shallots, green onion or onion: Sautéed in a little bit of butter, these add a slight sweetness to flavoured butters and play nicely with almost any other flavouring.

Booze: Try dry red or white wine, dry sherry or your favourite brown liquor, such as bourbon, rye or whiskey. Any of these is heavenly with sautéed shallots.

Maple syrup or honey: Blend just a touch of these sweeteners into butter that has been enhanced with herbs, citrus zest, chiles or even dry mustard.

Anchovies: These add a deep layer of umami, or savouriness, to dishes — and their fishy flavour disappears when they're cooked. Pair anchovies with garlic for a to-die-for butter that's also excellent on steak.

+ BUTTERING UP YOUR TURKEY

The easiest way is to simply rub softened flavoured butter all over the skin before roasting. You can also soak cheesecloth in the melted butter mixture and lay it over the breast so that it self-bastes in the oven. Or gently loosen the skin using your finger or a chopstick, and rub butter underneath. All three methods will deliver an Instagram-worthy holiday turkey with moist white meat and crispy, golden skin. Roll any leftover flavoured butter into a log, and then cover and refrigerate or freeze for later. Toss with steamed veggies, or dab on a sizzling steak for a delicious finish.



Kick your turkey up a notch by using a variation of spices and herbs to flavour your butter baste. ISTOCK PHOTOS

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Budget friendly holiday sides

Sticker shock at the grocery store is nothing new for Canadians. According to the Food Price Report 2016, published by the Food Institute of the University of Guelph in Ontario, a weaker Canadian dollar pushed food prices significantly higher in 2015. The institute forecast more increases for 2016, especially in the produce and meat aisles of the supermarket — a prediction that's come true, if my grocery-store receipts are any indication.

Big holiday dinners usually require some budget-breaking, but what's a hungry holiday cook to do in a climate where a single cauliflower can cost \$8, and organic wild rice clocks in at \$25 a kilo? Answer: try something new and cheaper.

Swap asparagus for green beans. Canadian asparagus has a short (but wonderful) season in the spring. The rest of the year, this vegetable gets flown in from warmer climes, often South America, making it pricey. Instead of coughing up \$6 or more a bunch, try less-expensive fresh green beans instead. Their mild flavour is delicious with butter and toasted sliced almonds.

Sub in broccoli for cauliflower. Early 2016 was bad for cauliflower lovers. While prices have dipped below the crazy \$8 per head peak, this can be more



Sub brown or white rice for wild. Brown basmati rice costs about a quarter of the price and has a nice, chewy texture and a subtle nutty flavour.

ISTOCK PHOTO

of a luxury veg at times. Luckily, broccoli works in many of the same dishes — hello, cheese sauce — so it's an easy swap. Don't forget to peel and slice the delicious stems and cook them along with the florets to get maximum bang for your buck.

Use romaine instead of baby greens. Romaine takes a little more work — a rinse, a spin and a little chopping — but it's not as expensive as ready-to-use baby arugula, spinach or kale. Romaine is a hearty lettuce that makes a crisp salad, and it goes with pretty much any dressing you love.

Use regular potatoes instead of baby ones. They look beautiful on the plate, but baby potatoes are often marked up quite a bit. Go for simple mashed white or red potatoes, or switch it up and bake some russets, which are great topped with gravy.

Try cabbage in place of

Brussels sprouts. A must on some people's tables, brussels sprouts are a holiday specialty and cost more per pound than their large cousins. Instead, sauté sliced Savoy red or green cabbage with a little bacon and minced onion for a deliciously smoky side.

Swap canned cranberry sauce for homemade apple compote. No one likes those can-shaped dents anyway. A few chopped tart apples, like Granny Smiths, plus sweet spices and a little water equals a chunky sauce that's a frugal-but-tasty complement to a classic turkey dinner.

Serve baked winter squash instead of sweet potato casserole. All those sweet potatoes, marshmallows and seasonings are more complicated and expensive than you need. Instead, peel, cube or slice, and roast an in-season winter squash — such as butternut or acorn.

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ASCENT CONDOS AT FAIRFIELD PARK



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Project overview

With two phases already sold out, this popular south Winnipeg project is coming to market again with a third phase of one and two-storey townhome condominiums, some of which have flexible basement space.

Housing amenities

Open floor plans, nine-foot ceilings and glass doors leading to balconies create a spacious feeling. Kitchens feature stainless steel appliances, quartz countertops and tile backsplashes. All units have two parking spots, and some have an attached garage.

Location and transit

Ascent residents can choose either Waverley or Pembina for their morning commute. An express bus route runs directly to downtown, and two park-and-ride locations for the upcoming Southwest Transitway are close. The Bishop Grandin Greenway and Waverley Pathway are minutes away by bike.

In the neighbourhood

The University of Manitoba and Investors Group Field offer entertainment, education and recreation. A Real Canadian Superstore is a short walk away, and area restaurants include Shawarma Khan, Wild Wing, Santa Lucia Pizza and Chosabi.

+ NEED TO KNOW

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Designer: Cibinel Architects
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Building: One & two-storey townhome style con-

dos, some with basements
Sizes: 896 - 1,291 sq. feet
Pricing: \$229k - \$314k
Model: Two, three and four bedrooms
Status: Under construction
Occupancy: Late-2017
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A new NBA labour deal was reportedly on the verge of being finalized after owners voted Wednesday to approve a proposed seven-year CBA

Showstoppers of '16

VIEW FROM THE 300S

Andrew 'Hustler' Paterson



With the holiday season here and 2017 fast approaching, many people just want 2016 to end. The new year offers plenty of promise and hope for our teams and athletes, but we can't leave 2016 without recognizing some of the special people and performances before the calendar turns.

Homecoming of the year — **Andrew Harris:** When the Bombers signed the Winnipeg native to a free-agent contract in February they hoped for a boost to their running and short-passing games while adding a respected voice in the locker-room. Harris delivered all of that and more. With nearly 1,000 yards on the ground and over 1,500 combined yards in 15 games, Harris was even more productive than many expected and was a huge part of Winnipeg's offensive turnaround. Harris seems to be everywhere in the community and has become the face of the Bombers in short order.

Gutsiest performance of the year — **Tyler Mislawchuk:** The Oakbank triathlete battled injuries in the leadup to Rio but still made the Canadian Olympic team. Feeling soreness in his lower body ahead of his event, he chose to push through. Mislaw-



Andrew Harris returned to Winnipeg and helped rejuvenate the Bombers' offence in 2016.

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

chuk finished 15th, fighting through incredible pain as the event wore on and was diagnosed with a stress fracture in his femur after the race. Returning home after Rio on crutches, Mislawchuk epitomizes everything we love in our Olympians.

Graduation of the year — **David Onyemata:** The New Orleans Saints defensive lineman has an incredible story. He started as a new student from Africa with no clue about football and has since become an NFL prospect. He

began 2016 training at the University of Manitoba for a professional career. He blew away scouts with his incredible package of strength, size and agility and the New Orleans Saints traded up in the fourth round to make Onyemata the highest-drafted Bison product to ever be selected in the NFL draft. After a journey from Nigeria to Manitoba to New Orleans, the NFL rookie has played in 14 games this season and has a bright future with the Saints.

Newcomer of the year

— **Patrik Laine:** He's been a household name in the city since the Jets won the second pick in the NHL draft in late April. The Finnish phenom has been everything Jets fans could have dreamed of and more since arriving in Winnipeg. Laine leads the Jets with 18 goals, and will be a top rookie-of-the-year contender. Still only 18, he has entertained us with his confidence, quotes and dry sense of humour. Patrik Laine has arrived and will own the Winnipeg sports scene for years to come.

NHL

Jets get chance to try again in Vancouver

It has become a familiar and troubling trend for the Vancouver Canucks.

They fall behind early — often looking half asleep from the opening faceoff, like they're surprised the game started on time — before steadying the ship and then frantically pressing late, desperately trying to erase a deficit.

There have been other times, albeit not nearly as many, when the club plays well out of the gate only to suffer a third-period collapse.

Thirty-three games into 2016-17, the Canucks are still looking for that elusive complete effort.

"Sometimes we have good starts, sometimes we have bad endings," veteran forward Jannik Hansen said following Tuesday's 4-1 win over the Winnipeg Jets, a game Vancouver trailed 1-0 after the first period. "If we knew the answer to that we'd play 60 good minutes every single night."

Vancouver (14-16-3) has allowed the first goal

a stunning 25 times, including in each of the first three outings of the club's current four-game homestand.

We are going to want the next one a little bit more.

Jets goalie Connor Hellebuyck



The Jets (15-17-3), meanwhile, were left frustrated Tuesday after peppering Canucks goalie Jacob Markstrom early.

Winnipeg — which is two points up on Vancouver, but has played two more games — could have

easily led by two or three, but instead let the Canucks hang around before eventually falling to 5-11-2 on the road.

In a scheduling quirk, Vancouver hosts Winnipeg for a second straight game on Thursday before visiting Calgary Friday.

Jets captain Blake Wheeler said the rematch shouldn't present many surprises.

"We have a pretty good idea of what they are trying to do," said Wheeler, who scored his team's only goal Tuesday. "I think they are going to have a pretty good idea of what we're trying to do. It's going to be a matter of will."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Second most points is 'like No. 1' to Jagr

Jaromir Jagr knows No. 2 is as high as he'll go on the NHL career scoring list.

In his mind, that's a record in itself.

Jagr's next point will be the 1,888th of his career and give him outright possession of second place on the all-time NHL points list, breaking a tie with Mark Messier. Only Wayne Gretzky's total of 2,857 is better than that, and

Jagr — the 44-year-old Florida Panthers forward who has said he can see himself playing until he's 50 — knows the top spot is

going to stay far from his reach.

"For me, it's like No. 1," Jagr said recently when asked what passing Messier would mean. "I don't really count Wayne Gretz-

ky. He was from another planet. I don't think he was from this planet. Whatever he did, it's unbreakable."

Jagr caught Messier on Tuesday with a three-assist effort in Florida's shootout win over Buffalo. His next chance

for the tiebreaker is Thursday, when the Panthers play host to the Boston Bruins.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

I just enjoy every moment I get a chance to play in this league and try to do everything I can to stay in this league.

Jaromir Jagr

MLB

Slugger taken aback by Jays' quick trigger

Edwin Encarnacion might have been signed to a new contract with the Blue Jays by now, had it not been for a compressed signing period that gave the popular slugger no time to consider his market, his agent says.

Paul Kinzer, who is representing Encarnacion in what is now a sluggish free agent market for power hitters, said Encarnacion was taken by surprise when Toronto signed Kendrys Morales "two days" after they offered him a reported four-year, \$80-million deal.

"They told us they'd be



Edwin Encarnacion
GETTY IMAGES

signing other players, that wasn't a surprise to us," Kinzer told the Jeff Blair Show on Sportsnet radio Wednesday morning.

"But signing someone (Morales) two days later, that was a surprise."

Encarnacion remains unsigned, though Kinzer said his client has at least six offers to consider. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

Bum thumb pushes Cavs' Smith out of action

Cavaliers starting guard J.R. Smith will be out indefinitely with a broken right thumb, an injury that will test the depth of the defending NBA champions.

Smith got hurt late in the second quarter of Tuesday night's game in Milwaukee and didn't return after halftime in a game the Cavs won 114-108 in overtime.

The team did not say when Smith will have surgery. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian ski cross racers win silver, bronze medals

Germany's Heidi Zacher won gold Wednesday at the ski cross World Cup while Canadians Marielle Thompson and Georgia Simmerling joined her on the podium in Innichen, Italy.

Simmerling, from West Vancouver, B.C., had the lead for most of the big final before slipping to third. Thompson, from Whistler, B.C., took the silver to retain her lead in the season standings. THE CANADIAN PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Comforting Slow Cooker Chicken Stew



PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Just a bit of prep in the morning and you'll come home to a satisfying dinner.

Ready in 6 hours 10 minutes

Prep time: 10 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients

- 6 chicken thighs
- 1 potato, peeled and cubed
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 4 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 Tbsp fresh thyme (1 tsp dried)
- 1 or 2 bay leaves
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 cups low-sodium chicken stock
- 1 cup fresh or frozen peas
- 1/2 cup light cream

Directions

1. In a Dutch oven or high-sided skillet, sauté onions, celery and carrots in splash of vegetable oil for about five minutes.
2. Add flour, thyme and bay leaves and stir for a minute. Add stock and stir until smooth. Simmer for 3 or 4 minutes until sauce thickens.
3. Add the potatoes and good pinch of salt and pepper.
4. Place chicken thighs in the bottom of slow cooker and spoon the vegetable mixture over. Seal and set for 6 hours.
5. Add peas and cream and cook for 10 more minutes. Serve plain or over mashed potatoes.

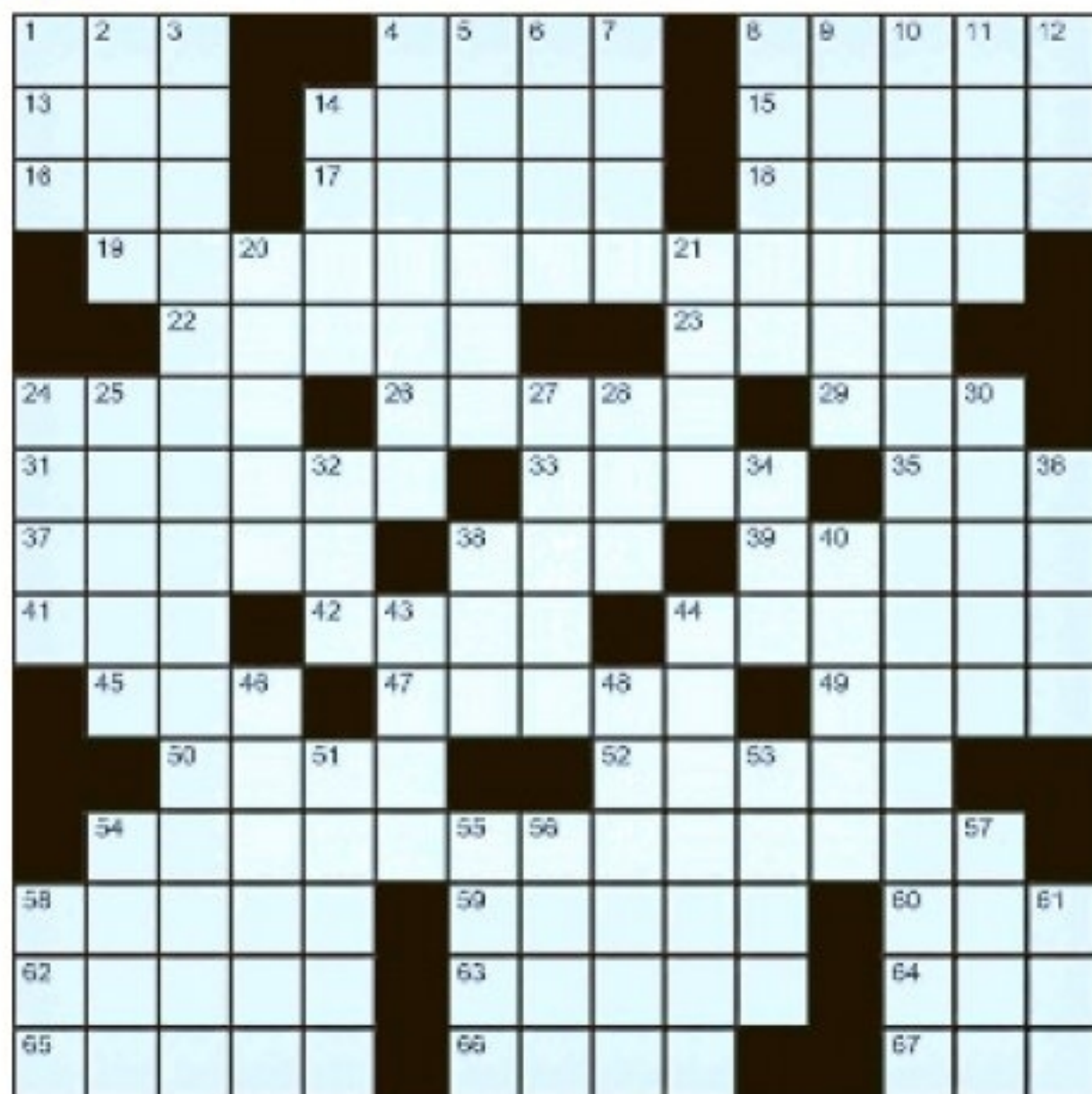
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Australian boot maker
4. Snowplow's creation
8. Cosmetics brand
13. For
14. Angels and Earthly Creatures writer, Elinor
15. Jeweller's eye piece
16. Lawn roll
17. Chicago's airport
18. The (Poem by British poet William Blake)
19. Signs indicating that Santa and his delivery crew have just landed: 3 wds.
22. havoc
23. Nobel Peace Prize city
24. Money Object link: 2 wds.
26. French painter Mr. Dufy
29. Sotheby's fare
31. Liveliness
33. Mr. Kilmer's
35. Drummer Mr. Cool
37. Until this moment: 2 wds.
38. Tommy Jones connector
39. Laughs
41. Note before Lah
42. Air freshener target, variantly
44. Toronto college; or, Roman statesman
45. Never: German
47. On a ship, sea
49. Nero's 602
50. Coin insertion place



52. Canadian sweets shop, Secord
54. Bit of "We Three Kings of Orient Are": "Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying / Sealed in the"
58. Unflappable
59. Take apart shoelaces

60. Antiquity
62. oeuvre (Appetizer)
63. Self-righteous
64. Mr. Orbison
65. Showbiz performer Martha's
66. Canadian director Mr. Egoyan
67. inspiring

DOWN

1. Sit- (Exercises)
2. David of "Rhoda"
3. What it's predicted Rudolph will do at the end of his Christmas tune: 4 wds.
4. How to completely memorize something: 2 wds.

5. Sarah Palin's state
6. De Robert
7. Ardent
8. Some choral voices
9. One of Montreal's Concordia University campuses
10. Have fun with photos pos-

- ing: 4 wds.
11. Imitates
12. "darn tootin'!"
14. Created tap-estries
20. Storm aka Munroe, Halle Berry's character in "X-Men: Days of Future Past" (2014)
21. Bun
24. 'Violin' suffixes
25. Serving (Dinner-time utensil)
27. Obvious
28. Dubai's locale, commonly
30. Ms. Bingham of "Baywatch"
32. "Letters from Jima" (2006)
34. Particular pronoun
36. Mr. Morales
38. Mr. Ferrigno
40. Prefix meaning 'Male'
43. Fawn
44. The Olympic in Montreal
46. Author S.E. Hinton = Susan Hinton
48. The Beatles' 'Yellow Submarine' album tune: "It's Much"
51. Where musicians store their songs: 2 wds.
53. Driving 4x4s, commonly
54. Ancient colonnade
55. Lipton soup
56. Kool & The Gang's "Get Down"
57. Gust
58. Stock unit [abbr.]
61. Hair tinter

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
This is a wonderful day to enjoy the company of others, especially partners and close friends. You also will enjoy dealing with members of the general public.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Work-related travel is likely today. Fortunately, you feel upbeat and happy, especially relating to co-workers and customers. People will be honest and candid with you today.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is a fun-loving day! You will enjoy social outings, sports events and playful activities with children. Seek out opportunities to express your creative talents.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Family conversations will go well today, especially with female relatives, moms and aunts. Explore real-estate opportunities; however, wait until tomorrow to act with purpose.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Today you feel quite content with your world. This is why you will enjoy chatting with siblings, neighbors and relatives. It feels good to be upbeat and optimistic.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
This is an excellent day for business and commerce. Travelling for work is very likely. Nevertheless, postpone important financial decisions until tomorrow.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today it's easy to feel sympathetic and generous to others. In part, this is because you feel fortunate, but you also have a concern for the welfare of those who are less fortunate.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You feel content today, which is why you are happy to work behind the scenes. Your busy pace lately has been a bit exhausting, and you know it!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
A conversation with a friend or a member of a group might encourage you to be more ambitious about your future goals. Consider these today; however, wait until tomorrow to finalize anything.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
People notice you today. They might even learn information about you. Just be aware of this in case you want to guard your privacy. Be aware of your reputation.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Do something different today, because you are upbeat and eager to explore new situations. In particular, you want to learn something new that interests you. Travel if you can.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
In many ways, you will benefit from others today. Someone might do you a favor or make a promise. Wait to find out if this promise will ring true.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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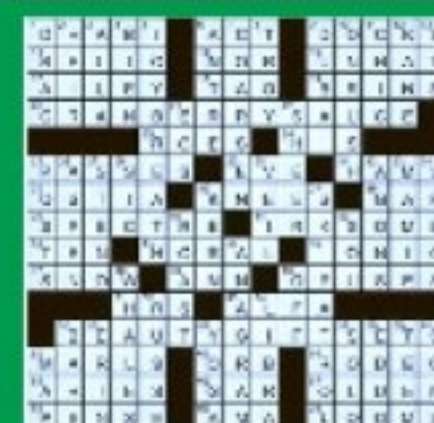
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YESTERDAY'S ANSWERS

Your daily crossword and Sudoku answers from the play page.

for more fun and games go to metronews.ca/games



5	9	4	3	8	1	2	7	6
1	6	3	7	2	5	9	4	8
7	2	8	6	9	4	3	1	5
2	8	1	9	7	3	5	6	4
4	7	5	2	1	6	8	9	3
9	3	6	5	4	8	7	2	1
6	5	2	1	3	9	4	8	7
3	4	7	8	6	2	1	5	9
8	1	9	4	5	7	6	3	2

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